

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131863

PASS TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 1917 SENT SECSTATE INFO HICOMTERPACIS
DATED JUNE 5.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1917

DEPT PLEASE PASS INTERIOR FOR DOTA AND OMSN

HICOM FOR STATUS LNO AND PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER CANHAM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, TQ
SUBJ: VISITING MISSION TO MARIANAS

REF: USUN 1915

1. WITH YESTERDAY'S DECISION (OVER SOVIET OBJECTIONS)
TO SEND VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE,
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HAS ACCEPTED ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO
BE PRESENT AT ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS IS MOST
IMPORTANT FOR WINNING EVENTUAL TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND
SECURITY COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF LEGITIMACY OF PLEBISCITE
AND SEPARATION OF MARIANAS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS OF TRUST
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TERRITORY.

2. UN SUPPORT, HOWEVER, HINGES TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS CLEAR CHOICE OF MARIANAS PEOPLE, AND THAT US IS NOT "RAILROADING" THE MARIANAS DECISION (CHARGE VOICED BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPS, PETITIONERS, AND SOVS). TC REPORT LAST YEAR RECOMMENDED THAT "CONSULTATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS...SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE ANY ALTERNATIVE", AND THAT, "IF SEPARATE PLEBISCITES HAVE TO BE HELD IN THE MARIANAS AND IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA, THESE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY."

3. WHILE TC RECOGNIZES THAT LATTER IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE, VISITING MISSION MEMBERS MAY WELL BE SENSITIVE TO CHARGE THAT ADVISORY REFERENDUM SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD BEFORE PLEBISCITE. THEY (AND TC SUBSEQUENTLY) MAY BE EXTREMELY CRITICAL IF MARIANAS WHO SO DESIRE ARE NOT GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS VIEWS IN REFERENDUM. IN OUR JUDGMENT THIS MIGHT SERIOUSLY PREJUDICE TC VIEW OF ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THERE IS NO OBSTACLE TO PARTICIPATION IN REFERENDUM, THE ISSUE OF THE PLEBISCITE COMING FIRST BECOMES LESS IMPORTANT.

4. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE US, AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, (I.E. TTPI EXECUTIVE) PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO VOTE IN JULY 8 REFERENDUM. MPSC AND POLITICAL LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO URGE PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT REFERENDUM, AND IF MOST MARIANAS DO SO, IT SHOULD BE SEEN AS DECISIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR CHOICE. IF THE US PREVENTS THEIR VOTING, HOWEVER, (BY EXCEEDING TO REQUEST OF MARIANAS AUTHORITIES THAT REFERENDUM NOT BE HELD IN THE DISTRICT, OR BY FAILING TO PROVIDE POLLING AREAS) THIS MIGHT JEOPARDIZE UN ENDORSEMENT OF LEGITIMACY OF ENTIRE MARIANAS PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

5. FURTHERMORE IN ORDER TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION OF UNDUE HASTE, OR OF "RAILROADING" ACTIONS THROUGH IN ORDER TO PRESENT "FAITS ACCOMPLIS", WE RECOMMEND THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN (1) TOWARD SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARIANAS, OR (2) TO RULE OUT MARIANAS PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, UNTIL US CONGRESS HAS ACTED AND COVENANT CAN LEGALLY GO INTO EFFECT. REGARDING (2), IF MARIANAN DELEGATES REFUSE TO ATTEND, THAT IS THEIR PREROGATIVE; BUT THE US SHOULD TAKE NO STEP TO RULE OUT THEIR PARTICIPATION.

6. THESE QUESTIONS MAY BE RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE VISITING MISSION DURING THEIR WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS MONDAY, JUNE 9. WE STRONGLY URGE FOLLOWING THE LINES RECOMMENDED HERE AND WE CAUTION THAT A DIFFERENT COURSE COULD WELL MAKE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON MISSION ON EVE OF ITS DEPARTURE. BRITISH, FRENCH AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEEN MOST SUPPORTIVE REGARDING THE MISSION, AND BOTH BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN PERMREPS HAVE ASSURED AMB WHITE THAT THEIR MEMBERS ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO BE COOPERATIVE. BUT THEY WILL TAKE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY, AND DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR AS MERE WINDOW-DRESSING TO US DECISIONS.

7. AS LONG AS VISITING MISSION SEES THAT PLEBISCITE IS FREE AND FAIR EXPRESSION OF WILL OF MARIANAN PEOPLES, AND THAT US IS NOT USING ITS POWER AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO RUSH PREMATURELY INTO SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WILL ACCEPT THE OUTCOME. WE SHOULD REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN OUR FRIENDS HAVE QUESTIONS AND WANT TO BE SURE THAT BOTH OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS ARE MET.

BENNETT UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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